

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device to eliminate trimmings or scraps from series of products comprising:

- a path for the products, extending from a product and trimmings entry position and a product delivery position, the trimmings being removed from the path between said entry position and said delivery position, and said path being constructed and arranged to receive said trimmings and said products aligned in a row extending substantially parallel to a direction of advancement from said entry position to said delivery position;

- extending along said path, a movable flexible member to retain and move the products and the trimmings and an opposite longitudinal fixed element to retain said trimmings extending along said path parallel to a first branch of said flexible member, wherein said fixed longitudinal element being is spaced from said first branch of said flexible member so as to allow the products to advance in contact with said flexible member and with said fixed longitudinal element, said contact being such to provide friction force between said flexible member and the products and the trimmings, and sliding friction between said fixed element and said products and said trimmings;

- at least one pusher movable along a feed trajectory, to feed the series of products with the trimmings to said path;

wherein the said flexible member has a feed speed, along said path, greater than a feed speed imparted on the products by said at least one pusher, wherein said pusher is constructed and arranged to feed simultaneously a series of the products and the trimmings, including a lead trim and a trailing trim, while in contact with each other and aligned in said row parallel to the direction of advancement between said flexible member and said fixed longitudinal element; wherein said feed trajectory of the pusher intersects the path of the products between said flexible member and said fixed longitudinal element, overlapping in a final stretch of the path of the products in contact with said flexible member and said fixed longitudinal element.

2. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said products are rolls of wound web material and said trimmings are head and tail trimmings produced by cutting rolls or logs.

3. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said fixed longitudinal element is at a lower height than said flexible member.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said first branch of the flexible member is approximately vertically overlapping said fixed longitudinal element.

6. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fixed longitudinal element and the first branch of the flexible member are operatively spaced relative to one another so as to receive rolls of wound web material and trimmings therefrom.

7. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1; wherein said flexible member extends upstream of said fixed longitudinal element, in relation to a direction of feed of the products.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein spacing between the flexible member and the fixed longitudinal element is adjustable.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said fixed longitudinal element comprises a synthetic material with a low friction coefficient.

18. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said synthetic material is polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon).

19. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said fixed longitudinal element has a laminar extension, with a rounded surface in contact with the products.

20. (Previously Presented) Device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said fixed longitudinal element has a reduced height in proximity to the product and trimmings entry position.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said fixed longitudinal element and said flexible member are positioned on opposite sides of a vertical median plane of symmetry of the products fed along said path; a distance between said fixed longitudinal element and said flexible member in a plan projection being adjustable to handle products of variable diameters when received and fed along said path; and the dimension and form of said pusher are such that during action of said pusher to feed the

products to said path between the flexible member and the fixed longitudinal element the pusher does not interfere with said fixed longitudinal element and said flexible member.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A device to eliminate trimmings or scraps from series of products comprising:

- a path for the products, extending from a product and trimmings entry position and a product delivery position, the trimmings being removed from the path between said entry position and said delivery position, and said path being constructed and arranged to receive said trimmings and said products aligned in a row extending substantially parallel to a direction of advancement from said entry position to said delivery position;

- extending along said path, a movable flexible member to retain and move the products and the trimmings and an opposite longitudinal fixed element to retain said trimmings extending along said path parallel to a first branch of said flexible member, wherein said fixed longitudinal element being is positioned and spaced from said first branch of said flexible member so that the flexible member contacts the trimmings and the products on a top surface thereof and the fixed longitudinal element contacts these trimmings and

products on another surface thereof opposite the top surface to allow the products to advance in contact with said flexible member and with said fixed longitudinal element,  
said contact being such to provide friction force between  
said flexible member and the products and the trimmings, and  
sliding friction between said fixed element and the products  
and the trimmings;

- at least one pusher movable along a feed trajectory, to feed the series of products with the trimmings to said path;

wherein the said flexible member has a feed speed, along  
said path, greater than a feed speed imparted on the  
products by said at least one pusher, wherein said pusher is  
constructed and arranged to feed simultaneously a series of  
the products and the trimmings, including a lead trim and a  
trailing trim, while in contact with each other and aligned  
in said row parallel to the direction of advancement between  
said flexible member and said fixed longitudinal element;  
wherein said feed trajectory of the pusher intersects the  
path of the products between said flexible member and said  
fixed longitudinal element, overlapping in a final stretch  
of the path of the products in contact with said flexible  
member and said fixed longitudinal element; and wherein said  
flexible member and said fixed longitudinal element are

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arranged relative to one another to cause the trimmings to overturn due to an overturning torque applied thereon by said flexible member and said fixed longitudinal element.

25. (Canceled).